

- 1     1. A method of displaying alert information for objects in a network, comprising:
  - 2             receiving a selection of a first one of the network objects;
  - 3             receiving a selection of a first one of a plurality of metrics associated with the first
  - 4     one of the network objects;
  - 5             receiving a selection of a first threshold for the first one of the plurality of metrics;
  - 6     and
  - 7             storing performance information for the network objects at predetermined time
  - 8     intervals;
  - 9             activating a first trigger when the first threshold is exceeded;
  - 10            identifying the first one of the network objects as a potential root cause of a
  - 11    network problem; and
  - 12            displaying a topographical network map including the first one of the network
  - 13    objects.
  - 14
- 15    2. The method according to claim 1, further including receiving a setting for the first
- 16    threshold for a predetermined time interval.
- 17
- 18    3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined time interval includes
- 19    one or more of a day, each hour of a day, and historical data.
- 20
- 21    4. The method according to claim 2, further including receiving an association of the
- 22    first threshold with one or more days of the week.
- 23
- 24    5. The method according to claim 1, further including receiving threshold values for the
- 25    first one of the plurality of metrics for a plurality of time intervals.
- 26
- 27    6. The method according to claim 5, further including receiving threshold values for
- 28    each hour of a day.

- 1 7. The method according to claim 1, further including receiving a second threshold for  
2 the first one of the plurality of metrics such that the first threshold provides a maximum  
3 and the second threshold provides a minimum.  
4
- 5 8. The method according to claim 1, further including receiving a selection for the first  
6 threshold based upon a selection of historical data for a predetermined time period.  
7
- 8 9. The method according to claim 1, further including receiving a second one of the  
9 plurality of metrics associated with the first one of the network objects, receiving a  
10 selection of a second threshold for the second one of the plurality of metrics, and defining  
11 a trigger activation based upon a logical combination of the first and second thresholds.  
12
- 13 10. The method according to claim 1, further including receiving a selection of a second  
14 one of the network objects, receiving a selection of a first one of a plurality of metrics  
15 associated with the second one of the network objects, receiving a selection of a second  
16 threshold for the first one of the plurality of metrics associated with the second one of the  
17 network objects, and defining a trigger based upon a logical relationship of the first and  
18 second thresholds.  
19
- 20 11. The method according to claim 1, further including identifying the potential root  
21 cause by associating a first visual indicator to the first one of the network objects.  
22
- 23 12. The method according to claim 1, further including displaying a first region for a  
24 first type of network object and a second region for a second type of network object.  
25
- 26 13. The method according to claim 1, further including displaying a plurality of cells  
27 corresponding to the time intervals.  
28
- 29 14. The method according to claim 1, wherein certain ones of displayed network objects  
30 are expandable to show devices associated therewith.

1 15. The method according to claim 1, further including displaying performance data for  
2 the first one of the network objects.

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4 16. The method according to claim 1, further including displaying the first threshold  
5 with stored performance information.

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7 17. The method according to claim 1, further including displaying statistical bands for a  
8 metric associated with the first one of the network objects.

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10 18. A computer system, comprising:

11 a processor;

12 a display coupled to the processor; and

13 a memory coupled to the processor, the memory including program instructions to  
14 enable display of trigger information for objects in a network by:

15 receiving a selection of a first one of the network objects;

16 receiving a selection of a first one of a plurality of metrics associated with the first  
17 one of the network objects;

18 receiving a selection of a first threshold for the first one of the plurality of metrics;

19 and

20 storing performance information for the network objects at predetermined time  
21 intervals;

22 activating a first trigger when the first threshold is exceeded;

23 identifying the first one of the network objects as a potential root cause of a  
24 network problem; and

25 displaying a topographical network map including the first one of the network  
26 objects.

27

28 19. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
29 receiving a setting for the first threshold for a predetermined time interval.

1 20. The system according to claim 19, wherein the predetermined time interval includes  
2 one or more of a day, each hour of a day, and historical data.

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4 21. The system according to claim 19, further including program instructions for  
5 receiving an association of the first threshold with one or more days of the week.

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7 22. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
8 receiving threshold values for the first one of the plurality of metrics for a plurality of  
9 time intervals.

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11 23. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
12 receiving a selection for the first threshold based upon a selection of historical data for a  
13 predetermined time period.

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15 24. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
16 receiving a second one of the plurality of metrics associated with the first one of the  
17 network objects, receiving a selection of a second threshold for the second one of the  
18 plurality of metrics, and defining a trigger activation based upon a logical combination of  
19 the first and second thresholds.

20

21 25. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
22 receiving a selection of a second one of the network objects, receiving a selection of a  
23 first one of a plurality of metrics associated with the second one of the network objects,  
24 receiving a selection of a second threshold for the first one of the plurality of metrics  
25 associated with the second one of the network objects, and defining a trigger based upon  
26 a logical relationship of the first and second thresholds.

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28 26. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
29 identifying the potential root cause by associating a first visual indicator to the first one of  
30 the network objects.

1 27. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
2 displaying a first region for a first type of network object and a second region for a second  
3 type of network object.  
4

5 28. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
6 displaying a plurality of cells corresponding to the time intervals.  
7

8 29. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
9 displaying performance data for the first one of the network objects.  
10

11 30. The system according to claim 18, further including program instructions for  
12 displaying the first threshold with stored performance information.  
13

14 31. The system according to claim 18, further including displaying statistical bands for a  
15 metric associated with the first one of the network objects.  
16

17 32. An article, comprising:  
18 a storage medium having stored instructions that when executed by a machine  
19 result in the following:  
20 receiving a selection of a first one of the network objects;  
21 receiving a selection of a first one of a plurality of metrics associated with the first  
22 one of the network objects;  
23 receiving a selection of a first threshold for the first one of the plurality of metrics;  
24 and  
25 storing performance information for the network objects at predetermined time  
26 intervals;  
27 activating a first trigger when the first threshold is exceeded;  
28 identifying the first one of the network objects as a potential root cause of a  
29 network problem; and

1 displaying a topographical network map including the first one of the network  
2 objects.

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4 33. The article according to claim 32, further including receiving a setting for the first  
5 threshold for a predetermined time interval.

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7 34. The article according to claim 33, wherein the predetermined time interval includes  
8 one or more of a day, each hour of a day, and historical data.

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10 35. The article according to claim 33, further including receiving an association of the  
11 first threshold with one or more days of the week.

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13 36. The article according to claim 32, further including receiving threshold values for  
14 the first one of the plurality of metrics for a plurality of time intervals.

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16 37. The article according to claim 32, further including receiving a selection for the first  
17 threshold based upon a selection of historical data for a predetermined time period.

18 38. The article according to claim 32, further including receiving a second one of the  
19 plurality of metrics associated with the first one of the network objects, receiving a  
20 selection of a second threshold for the second one of the plurality of metrics, and defining  
21 a trigger activation based upon a logical combination of the first and second thresholds.

22

23 39. A computer system, comprising:

24 a processor;

25 a display coupled to the processor;

26 a memory coupled to the processor;

27 a means for receiving a selection of a first one of the network objects;

28 a means for receiving a selection of a first one of a plurality of metrics associated  
29 with the first one of the network objects;

1           a means for receiving a selection of a first threshold for the first one of the  
2 plurality of metrics; and  
3           a means for storing performance information for the network objects at  
4 predetermined time intervals;  
5           a means for activating a first trigger when the first threshold is exceeded;  
6           a means for identifying the first one of the network objects as a potential root  
7 cause of a network problem; and  
8           a means for displaying a topographical network map including the first one of the  
9 network objects.

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